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(54) Title: RNA INTERFERENCE MEDIATED INHIBITION OF SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) VIRUS GENE EXPRESSION USING SHORT INTERFERING NUCLEIC ACID (siNA)

(57) Abstract: The present invention comprises compounds, compositions, and methods useful for modulating the expression of genes associated with respiratory and pulmonary disease, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus genes, using short interfering nucleic acid (siNA) molecules. This invention also comprises compounds, compositions, and methods useful for modulating the expression and activity of SARS virus genes, or other genes involved in pathways of SARS virus gene expression and/or activity by RNA interference (RNAi) using small nucleic acid molecules. In particular, the instant invention features small nucleic acid molecules, such as short interfering nucleic acid (siNA), short interfering RNA (siRNA), double-stranded RNA (dsRNA), micro-RNA (miRNA), and short hairpin RNA (shRNA) molecules and methods used to modulate the expression of SARS virus RNA.

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